GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2248
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007
SALE OF VACANT LAND OF VSNL
Mehta Shri Bhubneshwar Prasad

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale of the vacant land of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) is not being done to the pressure of the company while the vacant land is not covered under disinvestment and Government is overlooking the recommendation of the Parliamnetary Committee on Finance regarding the sale of the vacant land;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the ground on which the vacant land of the VSNL was handed over to its buyer the Tata Telecom/Tata Group, while it was not covered under investment;

(d) the portion of the vacant land of the VSNL lying with its buyer the Tata Group;

(e) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to sell out the vacant land of the VSNL;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b) There is no pressure from the company on Government to sell the vacant (surplus) Land of VSNL. And there is no recommendation regarding sale of vacant (surplus) land VSNL by Standing Parliamentary Committee of Department of Disinvestment, Ministry of Finance.

(c) VSNL (A Private company) is the custodian of the vacant (surplus) land. And the TATA Group is the major stake holder in VSNL.

(d) The vacant (surplus) Land identified prior to disinvestment is 773.13 Acres. M/s VSNL is the custodian of this land.

(e) to (g) The Government is considering all possible options and the matter is under consideration of the Government.